

- (iii) To submit the independent views of its panel of experts on the above reports.
- (iv) To appoint project consultants for assistance in design & construction monitoring.
- (v) To off-load the non-performing contracts.

Setting up of Steel Plants

2061. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided not to install new steel plant in public sector;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have hailed the decision of the Orissa and Karnataka Governments to set up steel plants in the joint sector and that of the Madhya Pradesh Government in the private sector; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have sought assistance from Japan or non-resident Indians for modernisation of the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). In view of the limited availability of resources, Government propose to utilise such resources for the expansion and modernisation of existing steel plants in the public sector.

(c) The new industrial policy has removed "iron and steel" from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. The Central Government's approval is therefor not required for the es-

tablishment of new steel plants in the private or joint sector outside the restricted areas. The Orissa and Karnataka State Governments propose to set up new steel plants in the joint sector for which the Central Government will provide whatever assistance is possible.

(d) SAIL has commissioned SBI Capital Market Limited to explore the possibility of private participation both from within India and overseas in IISCO modernisation and advice SAIL accordingly.

[Translation]

Decision to Postpone Expansion Scheme of Vayudoot Services

2062. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision to postpone the expansion scheme of Vayudoot services or to reduce the same has been taken by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Sahara of Northern Bihar has also been included therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

P.C.Os. in Himachal Pradesh

2063. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P.C.Os. in Himachal Pradesh installed so far and the new scheme of providing a P.C.O. in each Panchayat; and

(b) the number of Panchayats which are